



Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

FACT SHEET

Disposing of storm debris

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) has specific guidelines for proper disposal of storm debris. Storm-affected Kentuckians face a number of health, safety, and compliance hazards when handling and disposing of debris. This fact sheet lists important contact information for residents to learn more about **solid waste disposal, burning of debris, asbestos removal, and mold growth.**

Learn Before You Burn:

- **Debris from homes and businesses should not be burned.** This includes structural materials, roofing, insulation, siding, appliances, carpet, furniture, and other household items.
- Burning of vegetative debris is permitted; however, if local governments decide to burn woody and vegetative debris, local fire departments should oversee the burning and ensure there are adequate fire breaks. To be in compliance with state regulations, all trash, tires, appliances, construction/demolition debris, etc. must be removed prior to burning. To minimize environmental impact, debris should not be burned until dry, at least on exterior surfaces. Small amounts of clean diesel fuel or kerosene, not to exceed five gallons, may be used to aid ignition. Storm-damaged building materials, appliances and furniture may not be burned.
- For questions about open burning, **call 888-BURN-LAW (888-287-6529).**

Guidelines for Storm Debris Staging Areas

Recycling is the preferred disposal method for many kinds of debris. If it is not feasible to recycle all debris, cities or counties should identify staging areas where debris can be temporarily stored or, in the case of woody and vegetative debris, burned. At a minimum, staging areas must be well away from residences and businesses. They also must be out of floodplains and away from sinkholes and drainage channels.

Local officials should contact the Division of Waste Management (502-564-6716) or Division for Air Quality (502-564-3999) with proposed staging areas. Inspectors will check the site to ensure it meets specific environmental criteria. Once a staging area is approved, material may be disposed using any combination of the following methods:

Disposing of Woody & Vegetative Waste

- Local governments are strongly encouraged to recycle woody and vegetative debris by composting, shredding, or chipping for reuse as mulch.
- Storm-generated vegetative debris managed at a staging area may be disposed of in a permitted, contained landfill or construction debris landfill.

- Use controlled burning for vegetative debris only. After burning, ashes may not be buried. There are three options for ash disposal:
 - Small amounts of ash may be incorporated into the soil at the staging area using a tractor and disc.
 - Ash may be given away to farmers for use as a soil amendment.
 - Ash may be disposed of in a permitted landfill (check with landfill first).

Disposing of Household/Business Debris

- **Construction & Demolition Debris:** All storm-related construction/demolition debris should be treated as potentially asbestos contaminated material (ACM) and maintained in a wet condition from demolition to final disposal activity. Construction and demolition debris may be disposed of at a permitted construction and demolition landfill or a contained landfill. Contact the Division for Waste Management for a list of permitted landfills: 502-564-6716.
- Contact the Kevin Flowers at the Division for Air Quality for more information about handling asbestos at 502-564-3999.
- **Appliances:** These can be picked up by a hauler and taken to a recycling center or county staging area. Contact the Division for Waste Management for a list of recycling centers: 502-564-6716.
- **Household Garbage & Residential Waste:** All residential waste must go to a contained landfill. Contact your county or city government to see if they have a special household hazardous waste drop-off for items like paint and pesticides.

Special Handling Applies to:

- **Livestock Carcasses:** Contact the Department for Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 502-564-3956 for information and assistance on proper disposal.
- **55 Gallon Drums or Tanks:** Don't attempt to move a drum or tank, since it may contain hazardous materials or waste. Note the location and contact the Division for Waste Management at 502-564-6716.

Important Contact Numbers:

Environmental Response Team

- Office number – 502-564-2150
- Spill Reporting Hotline – 800-928-2380

Division of Water

- Office number – 502- 564-3410
- Wastewater issues – ask for Tom Gabbard
- Drinking water issues – ask for Julie Roney

Division of Waste Management

- Office number – 502-564-6716

Division for Air Quality

- Office number – 502-564-3999

Open Burning Hotline: 888-287-6529